

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 and 12-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the subject Office Action, and proposed amendments with Applicants' representatives on April 29, 2004.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura (JP 9-71348). In view of the aforementioned telephone interview, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to further define certain embodiments of the invention including a cassette stacking a plurality of sheets in a vertical direction in conjunction with a moving member disposed parallel to a surface of each of the sheets and moveable in at least a horizontal direction. Applicants respectfully submit that claims include patentable features, and distinguish over Kimura.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 10/697,652

Attorney Docket No. Q78263

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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